

COMMON COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JULY 15, 2014

Mayor Kristen Brown called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

- A. Opening Prayer was given by Justin White with First Christian Church.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Brown.
- C. Roll Call was taken. Dascal Bunch, Ryan Brand, Frank Jerome, Frank Miller, Tim Shuffett, Kenneth Whipker, and James Lienhoop were present.
- D. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to approve the minutes from the City Council meeting on July 1, 2014 as presented. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.
- E. Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to the Columbus North Golf Team for their many accomplishments during the golf season and for winning the 2014 State Golf Championship.

**II. Unfinished Business Requiring Council Action**

- A. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 23, 2014, AN ORDINANCE VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY." (Jackson/ Brown Streets Alley Vacation) Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, presented this ordinance. Jeff explained after the first reading is passed the applicant prepares the necessary plat drawings to be executed. He further stated Cummins, Inc. is now ready to proceed, having submitted an administrative subdivision plat. The location of the vacation runs east to west in the alley between Jackson and Brown Streets in the block north of 8<sup>th</sup> Street, which is on the southern end of the Cummins, Inc. new health facility. Brief discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 24, 2014, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2014." Matt Caldwell, Director of Operations and Finance, presented this ordinance. He explained this is a transfer of funds from Riverboat to the Columbus Fire Department for paramedic training in the amount of \$220,000.00. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Whipker made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Lienhoop seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Second Reading and Public Hearing of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 25, 2014, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2014." Matt Caldwell explained the purpose of this ordinance is to appropriate funds for the Columbus Fire Department for additional overtime needs regarding paramedic training. The amount of the additional appropriation is \$220,000.00. There were no comments

from the public. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Whipker seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- D. Second Reading and Public Hearing of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 26, 2014, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2014." Jeff Logston, City Attorney and Executive Director of Administration, presented this ordinance. He stated this is a request for an additional appropriation to assist with the funding of an unsafe building fund, which would allow the City to address buildings that are deemed to be unsafe. Jeff explained the State's unsafe building law was adopted through a City ordinance. Jeff explained \$300,000.00 would allow the City to address approximately 20 properties, with \$15,000.00 allotted for each demolition. Councilor Jerome questioned whether a fund had been established. Jeff stated he has been working with the Clerk Treasurer's Office to establish two funds which will allow the City to meet the statutory requirements of a department operating fund and a non-reverting fund. Council Miller stated he is not against addressing blight and safety issues, but at this point is not in favor of this ordinance, because the state code is too broad and he stated there is no long term goal with mowing and demo liens. He questioned what the goal was for the properties. He stated he spoke with Community Development Director, Carl Malysz, who told him of potential ways to address some of the issues. Much discussion followed. Councilor Shuffett asked how many structures the City hoped to demolish this year. Jeff Logston stated realistically around 12 properties in 2014. Councilor Jerome stated if only 12 properties are in need of demolition for 2014 then \$200,000.00 seems to be a more appropriate amount. Further discussion followed. Councilor Brand specified his biggest concern is the request for twice as much money as we think we need for the calendar year 2014, when the budget hearings are just a short time away and a better plan for funds needed could be established during the budget process. Mayor stated if money is remaining, the extra funds could be rolled into non-reverting fund and community members really want the City to take action. Councilor Whipker realizes that issue, but doesn't feel the entire \$300,000.00 is needed for 2014 and has no problems issuing the necessary amount. Mayor opened the meeting for public commit. Victoria Griffin, 2015 Brookfield Court, agrees with the \$300,000.00 for possible costs related to asbestos and/or lead which is very expensive. John McDonald, 6025 Sheridan Drive, would like to see the project move forward. The meeting was closed to the public. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to pass the second reading as presented and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Councilor Jerome made a motion to amend the ordinance to change the amount of an additional appropriation from \$300,000.00 to \$200,000.00. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed to amend the ordinance by a vote of four (4) in favor and three (3) opposed. Councilor Jerome made a motion to pass the second reading of the amended document and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Shuffett seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed. Councilor Miller voted nay.
- E. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 27, 2014, AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND WAGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014." Matt Caldwell presented this salary ordinance. Matt explained this is an amendment to the salary ordinance to increase unscheduled overtime for the Columbus Fire Department by \$220,000.00 to cover paramedic training. Matt further discussed an amendment for the Transit Department to increase the number of on-call drivers from 9 to 25. This would be for scheduling purposes only and

would not increase the budget. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### III. New Business Requiring Council Action

- A. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2014, AN ORDINANCE VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY." (Sandlin-Woods Lancelot Lane Vacation) Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, presented this ordinance, showing a map of the location. Jeff stated a similar request was made in 2012, which was passed on the first reading. The application is to vacate right-of-way for Lancelot Lane which property runs between 3321 and 3341 Crescent Way. Both property owners, Autumn Sandlin and Thomas and Teresa Woods, are applicants in this action and are interested in having the right-of-way vacated. The properties share a driveway and would like to construct their own individual driveways. Brief discussion followed. Mayor opened the meeting for public comment. Teresa Woods stated the City should have no additional expense and would probably gain money because it will cost the homeowners additional money on property tax. They would like to have a clear delineation of where the property boundaries are located. The meeting was closed for public comment. Councilor Jerome made a motion for passage of the second reading and adoption of the ordinance. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### IV. Other Business

#### A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports

#### B. Discussion Items:

- 1.) Budget Timeline – Matt Caldwell stated he sent an e-mail to Council members scheduling budget hearings on Thursday, August 7th starting at 9:00 a.m. and reserving Friday, August 8th as an overflow date if necessary.
- 2.) Phase 1 State Street Improvements and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Urban People Trail – Mayor Brown stated United Consulting has done design engineering work on Indiana Avenue and has experience on urban trails. She stated a meeting was scheduled with United Consulting on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> with Beth Fizel and Jeff Bergman to discuss a design contract. Mayor said the cost estimates for the project, including sidewalks, urban trail, intersection improvements, pocket parks, people trail bridge, etc. was approximately \$8.3 million, which is the City's portion. Councilor Bunch stated the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks Foundation should be involved in this process. Much discussion followed. Julie Aton, 217 S 350 W, asked if it was feasible to have design work done from Lindsey to Marr Road and would recommend that when the work is done that Indiana to Mapleton be completed. She said as far as economic development and, as a way to create interest in the area, a special sense of space needs to be designed. Jeff Bergman explained much information needs to be gathered and choices to be made on individual elements of the improvements. Julie Aton recommended the City formulate a committee with individuals that would be the end users and Columbus citizens, as well as the Parks Foundation. Mayor explained the design project needs to be accelerated in order to be coupled with the INDOT plan. Lou Marr stated the objective has always been to unite the different sections of Columbus and questioned why we are calling the extension of our trails a different name, urban trail vs. people trail. Victoria Griffin questioned if April

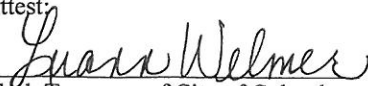
Williams and Dave Hayward with the Park Foundation could be included in the meeting with United Consulting. Mayor said they were welcome to attend.

- 3.) Downtown Parking Recommendation – Dascal Bunch explained a new ordinance will be presented at the next Council meeting stating first three (3) hours of street parking are free, but fines will increase. The first parking ticket violation would be free and a second ticket would be \$50.00. Councilor Bunch stated they hope an additional part-time parking attendant employee will be added to the budget and a new license plate scanning system is suggested. Councilor Jerome explained the \$50.00 fine is not to raise revenue, but to change parking behaviors. Tom Dell, downtown merchant and member of the Parking Committee, is in favor of ordinance revisions. He stated a presentation was given to the downtown merchants and they feel the \$50.00 fine would send a negative message to the public, as well as downtown shoppers. He said it won't change the behavior of the people abusing the system because of the first three hours being free parking. Tom stated paid parking in the core areas is the way to create availability. He also suggested a smaller ticketing fine. Terry with the Columbus Merchants Group stated there has to be some way for people to pay when they desire to stay more than three (3) hours downtown and the \$50.00 fine sends the wrong message to people. Diane Robbins with Kidscommons read a prepared statement. She stated the 300 block of Washington Street is referred to as the family destination in downtown Columbus, because people who visit the Kidscommons frequently also visit The Commons Mall and Zaharakos. Their guests normally stay for more than three (3) hours. She suggested guests are happy to pay for parking, but a \$50.00 parking ticket fee would be excessive. John Pickett, 621 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and an owner of Baker's Fine Gifts on Washington Street, stated harm has already been done through the press with the headline regarding the proposed \$50.00 fine. Parking is a consistent issue with their customers. Paid parking does not mean meters in this day and age. He stated the consulting firm, Nelson & Nygaard, suggested in a memo to the Mayor that paid parking was the center of their recommendation. Councilor Bunch said paid parking was discussed, but would cost a large amount of money to implement. He suggests trying lower cost alternatives at this time and if the issues persist this can always be revisited. Lou Marr has been coming to parking meetings for years. She thinks the first item to be solved is to stop the downtown employees from parking in the core areas. A shuttle has been used in the past and should be re-implemented. Much discussion followed.

C. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 5, 2014, 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.**

D. Councilor Shuffett made a motion for adjournment. Councilor Lienhoop seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:31 P.M.

  
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Presiding Officer

Attest:  
  
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Clerk Treasurer of City of Columbus